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KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

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SPAZ
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J. D. RAY '97
HEROIC AGE

DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES™

BOOK EIGHT

DARK VENGEANCE

Part Two of Three

Ken Penders
Writer

Manny Galan
Penciler

Andrew Pepoy
Inker

Barry Grossman
Colorist

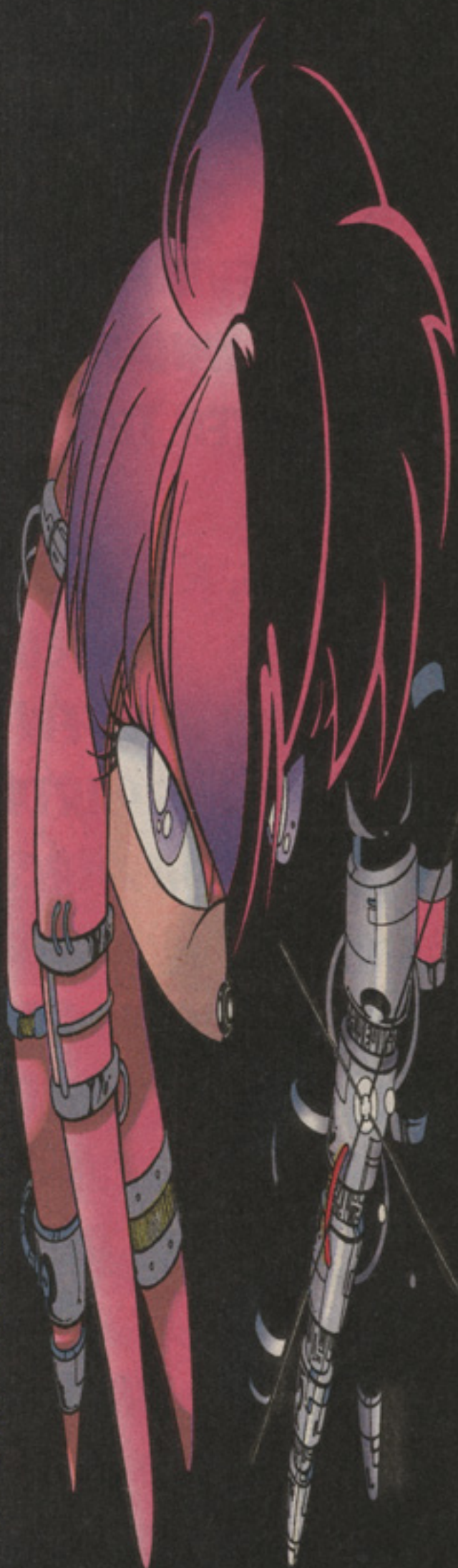
Vickie Williams
Letterer

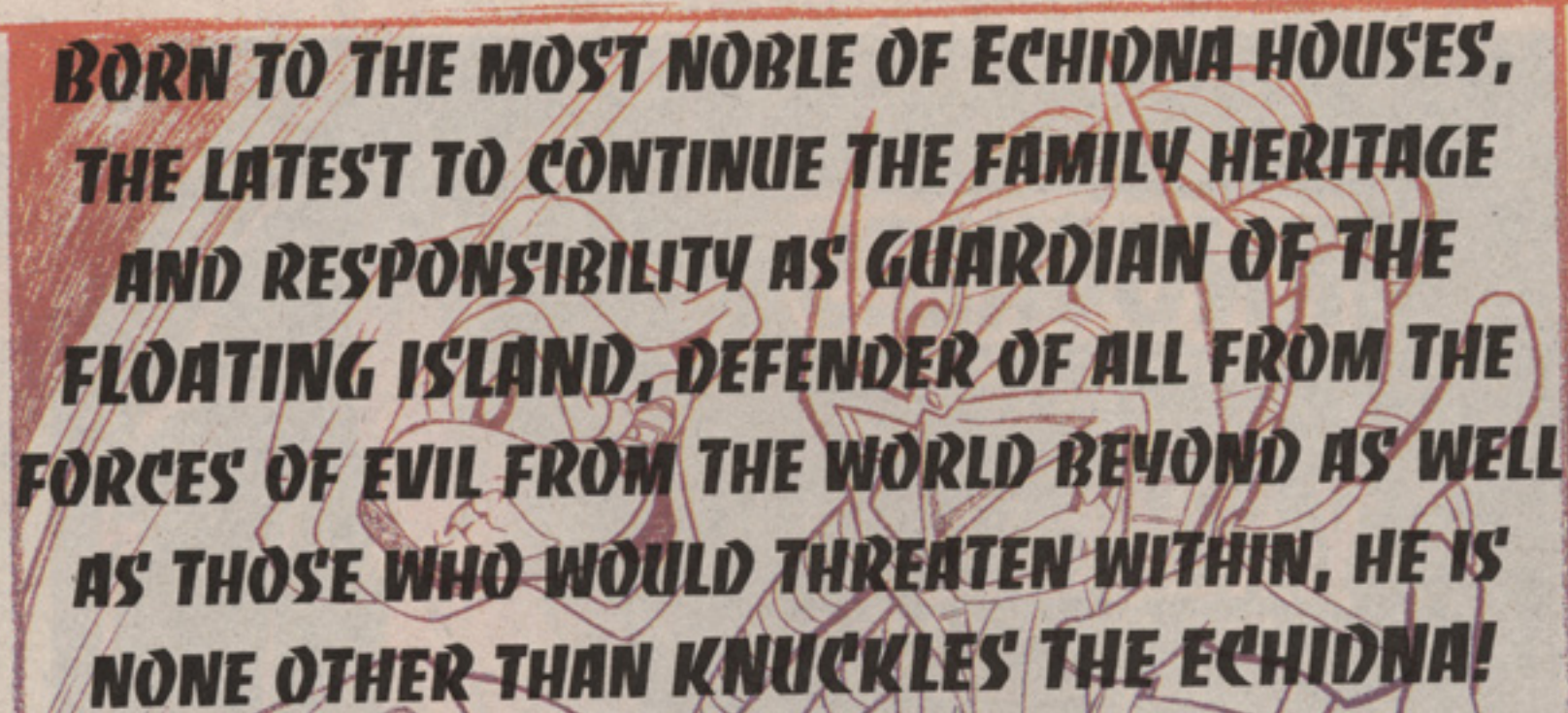
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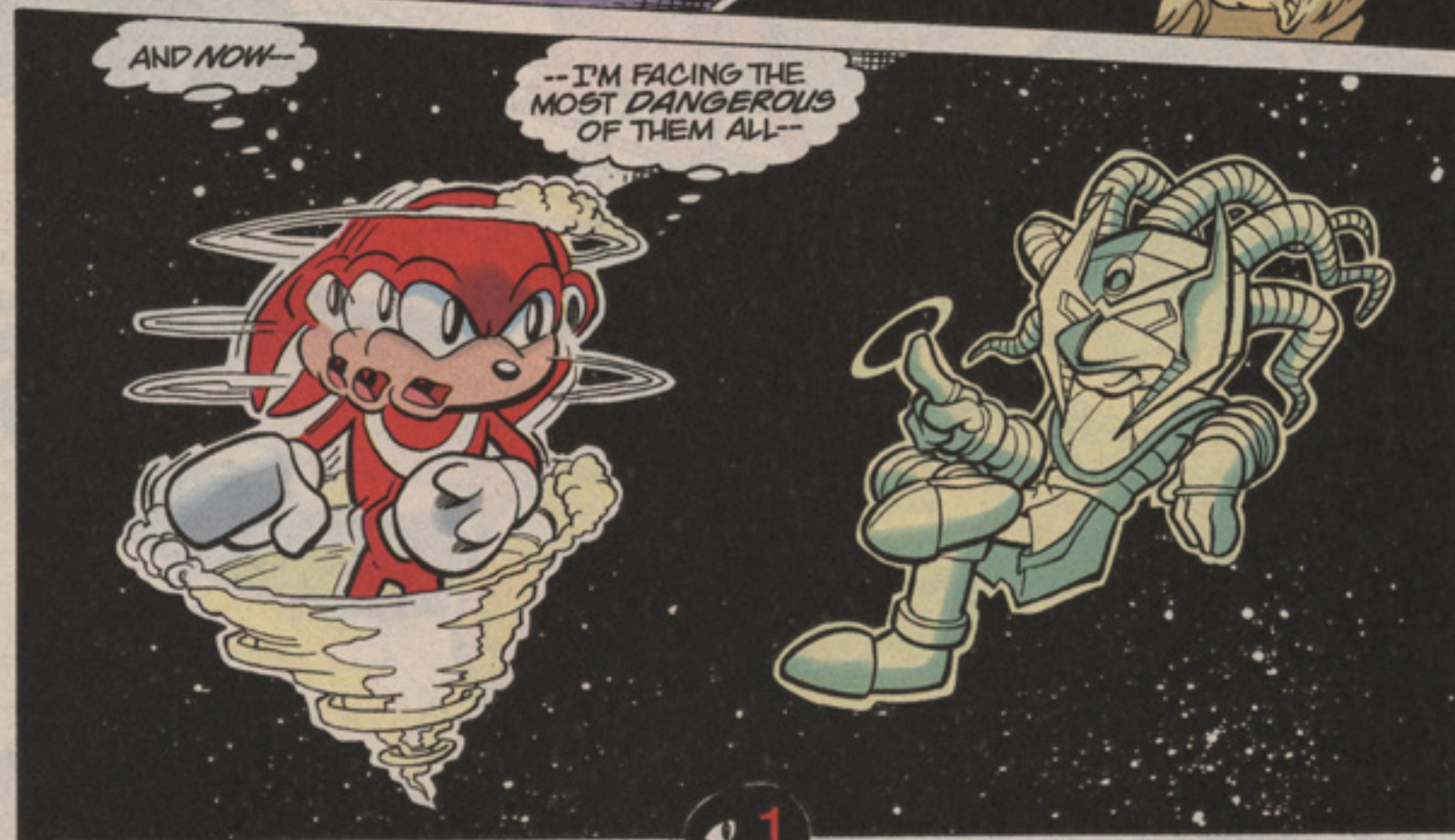
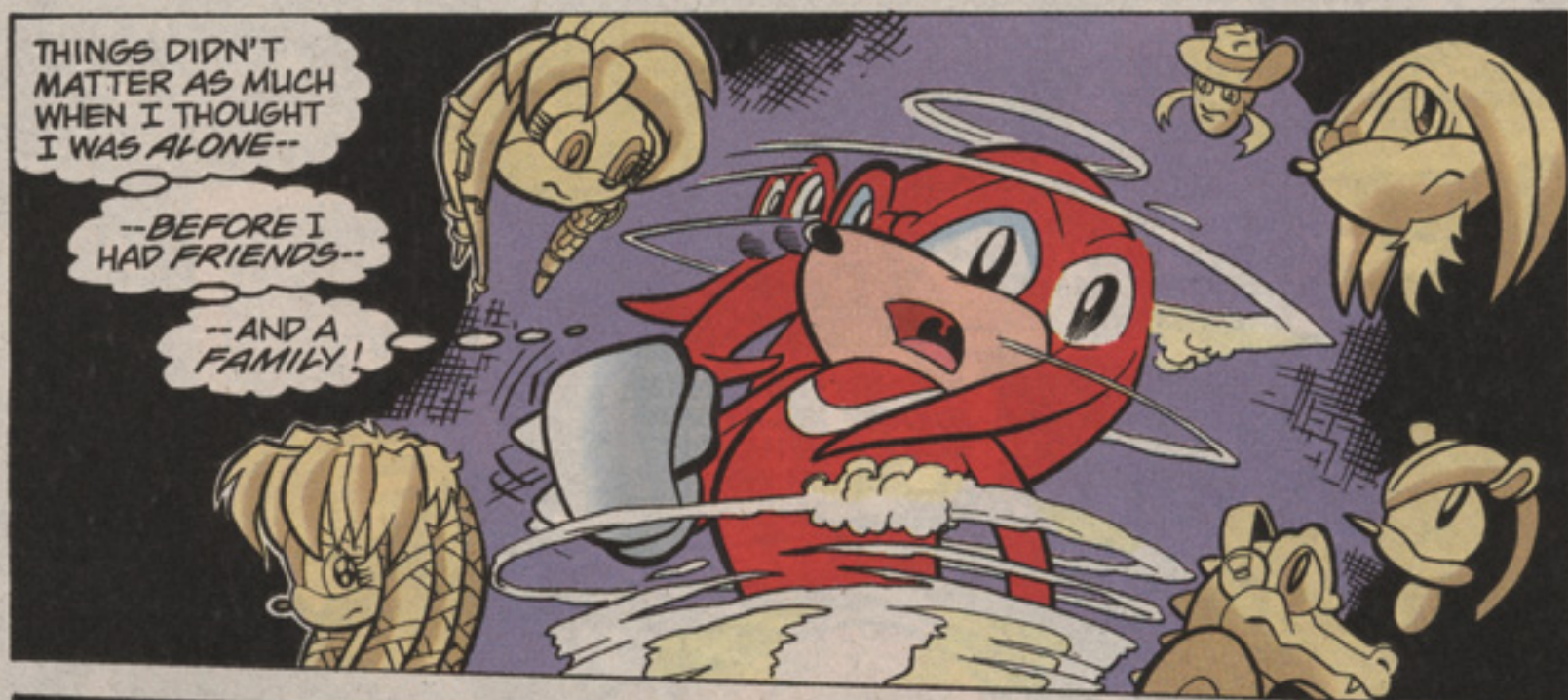


A background illustration in blue ink showing Knuckles the Echidna and Julie-Su. Knuckles is on the left, looking towards the right. Julie-Su is on the right, looking towards the left. They are both wearing their signature clothing. The illustration is done in a sketchy, expressive style.

**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE
AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE
FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL
AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS
NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**LAST ISSUE, KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU ENGAGED IN
A THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION INVOLVING PLENTY OF
QUESTIONS BUT FEW ANSWERS. DECIDING THERE
WAS ONLY ONE PARTY THEY COULD TURN TO, THEY
SOUGHT OUT ARCHIMEDES, THE ENIGMATIC
FIRE-ANT WHO SERVES AS BOTH FRIEND AND
MENTOR. DURING THEIR QUEST, THEY DISCOVERED
EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED TO
THE CHOATIX. EVIDENCE WHICH POINTED TO NOT
JUST ONE ENEMY, BUT TWO.**

**MAKING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND,
KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU WERE CONFRONTED ONCE
AGAIN BY A BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY
OTHER THEY HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED.**



--ENERJAK, AN ALL-
POWERFUL BEING FUELED
BY THE ENERGY OF ELEVEN
CHAOS EMERALDS--

--WHO, FOUR
HUNDRED YEARS AGO,
WAS ONCE AN ECHIDNA
SCIENTIST NAMED
DIMITRI!

FUNNY HOW ONE'S
BLOOD RELATIVES
MAKE THE WORST
ENEMIES!

MY, MY,
MY! EVER THE PROUD
ECHIDNA, ARE WE?

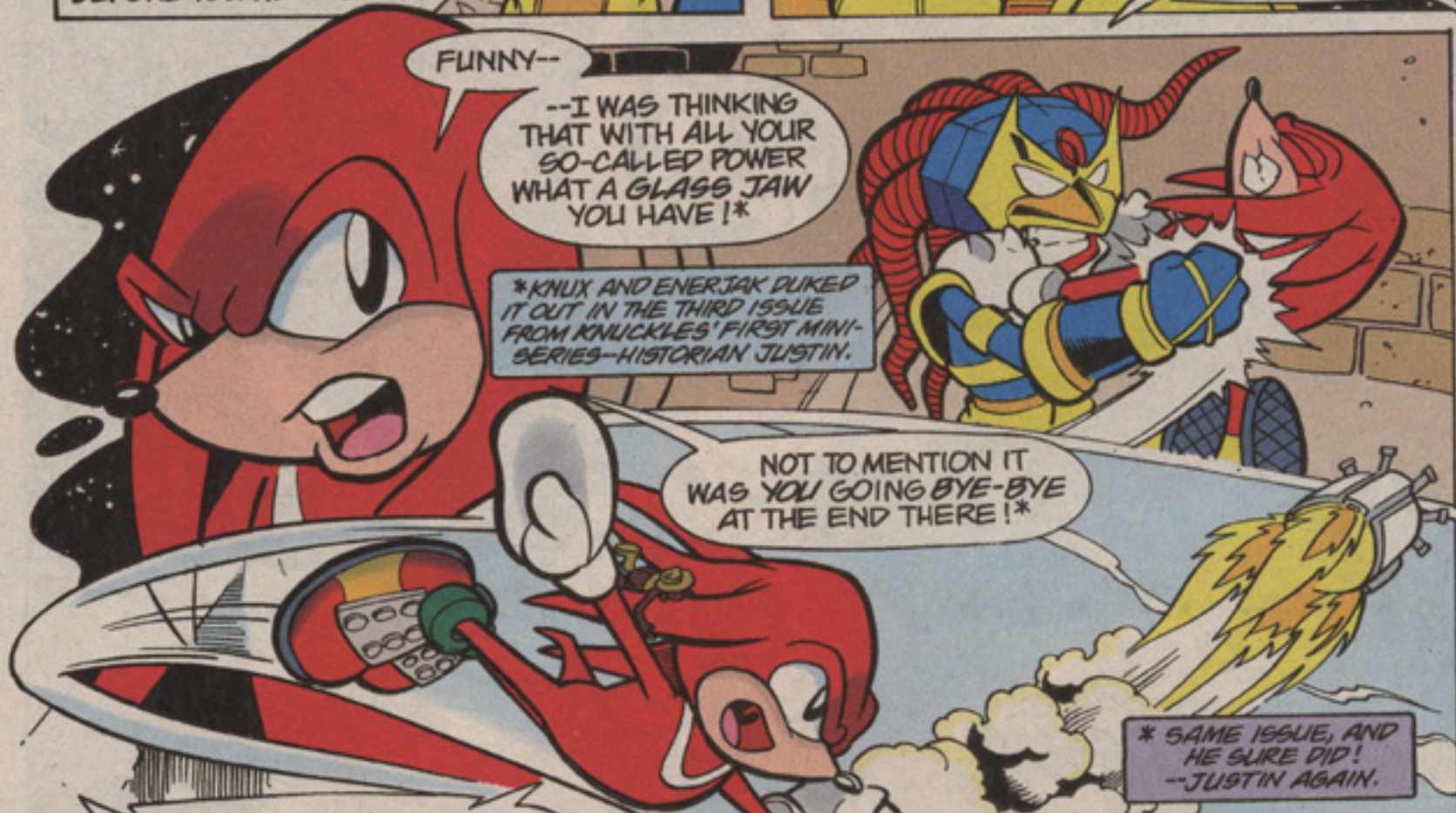
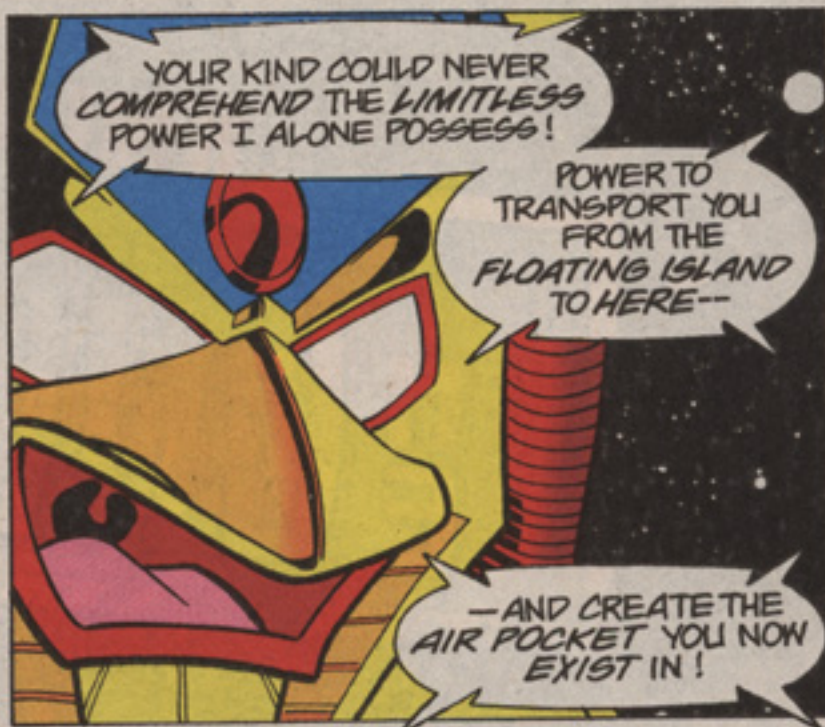


1 KNUCKLES™ IN THE GAUNTLET

NOT FOR LONG,
I CAN ASSURE YOU,
KNUCKLES!

I'M GOING
TO BREAK YOU
TOTALLY—COMPLETELY—
MERCILESSLY!

YOU'RE GOING
TO PAY FOR WHAT
YOU DID!





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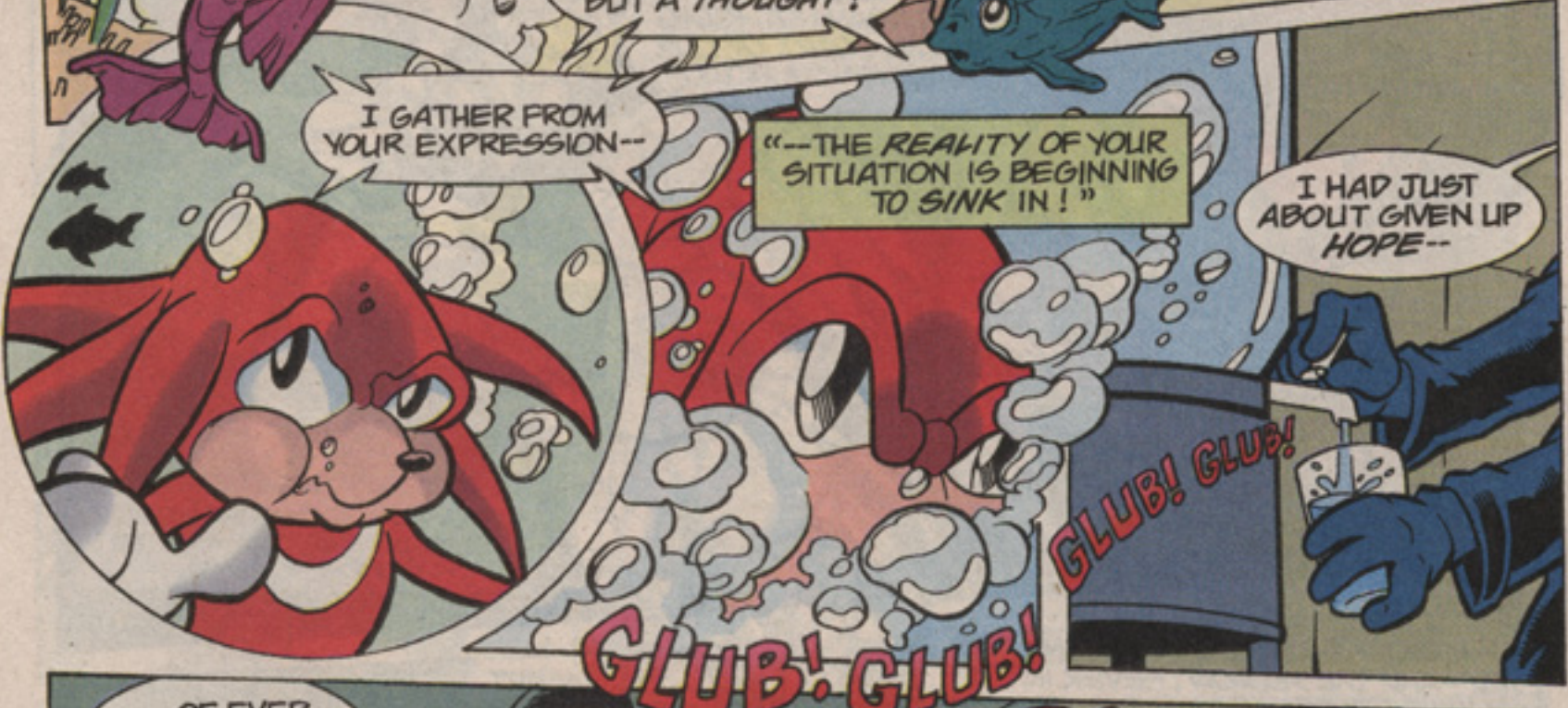


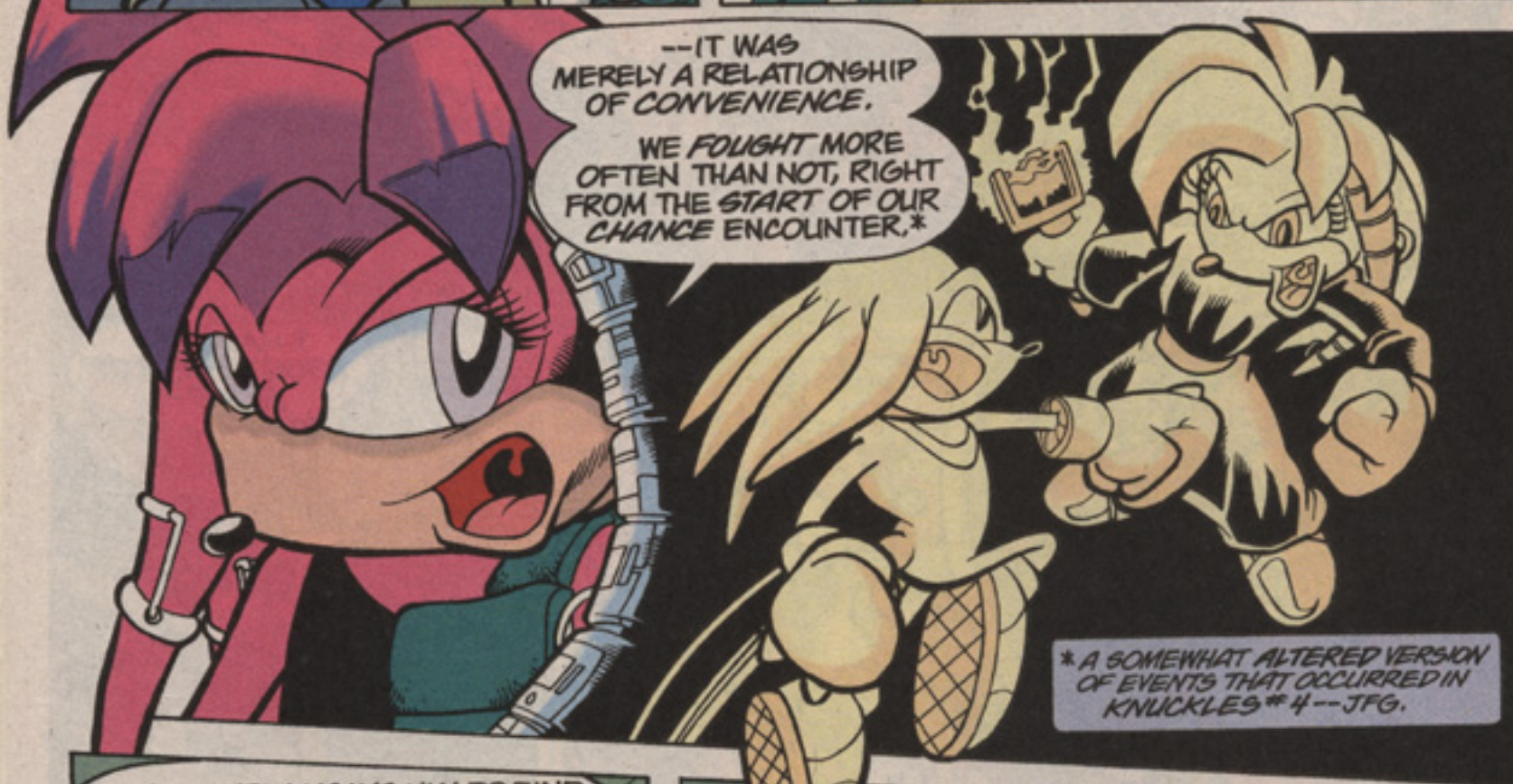
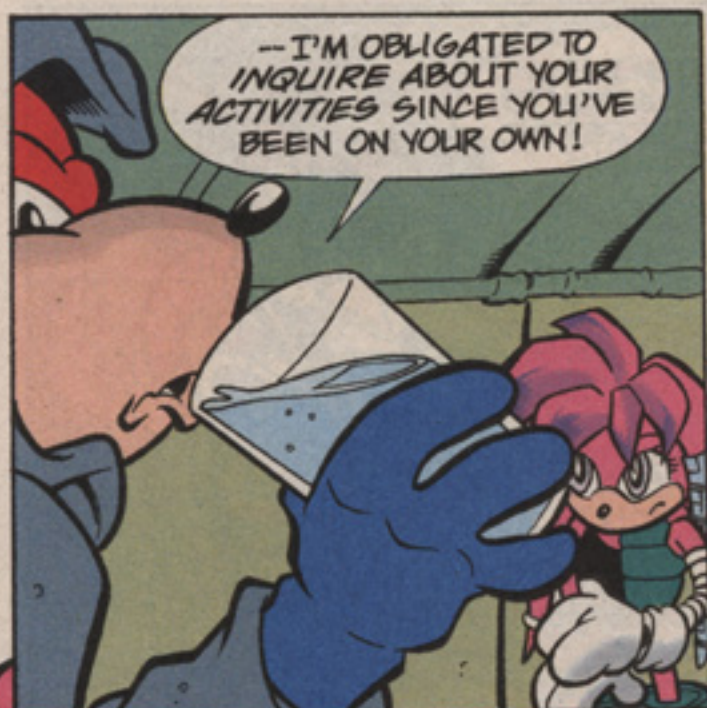
Katy Keene

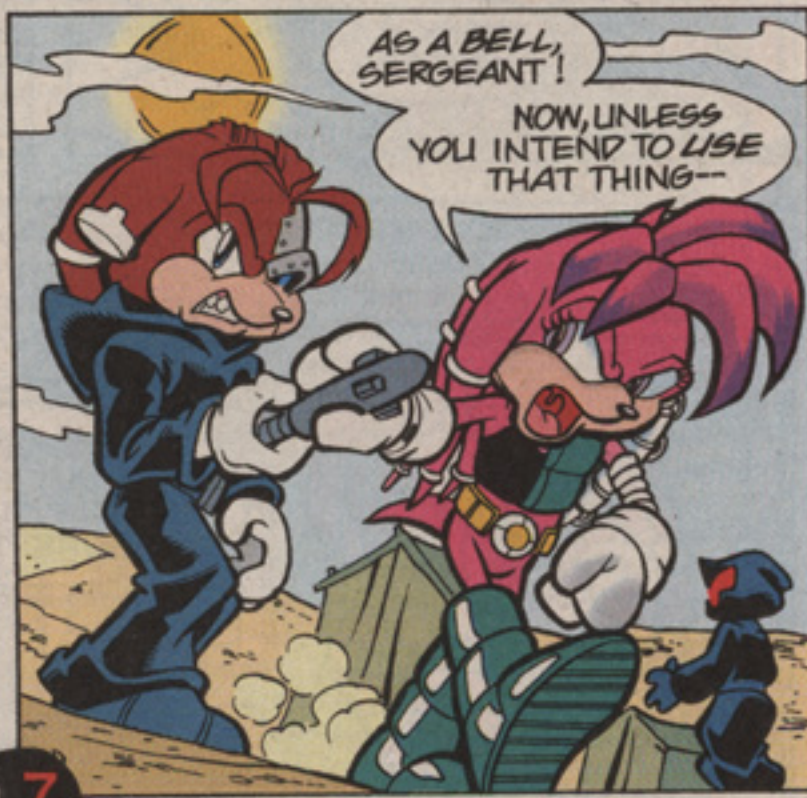
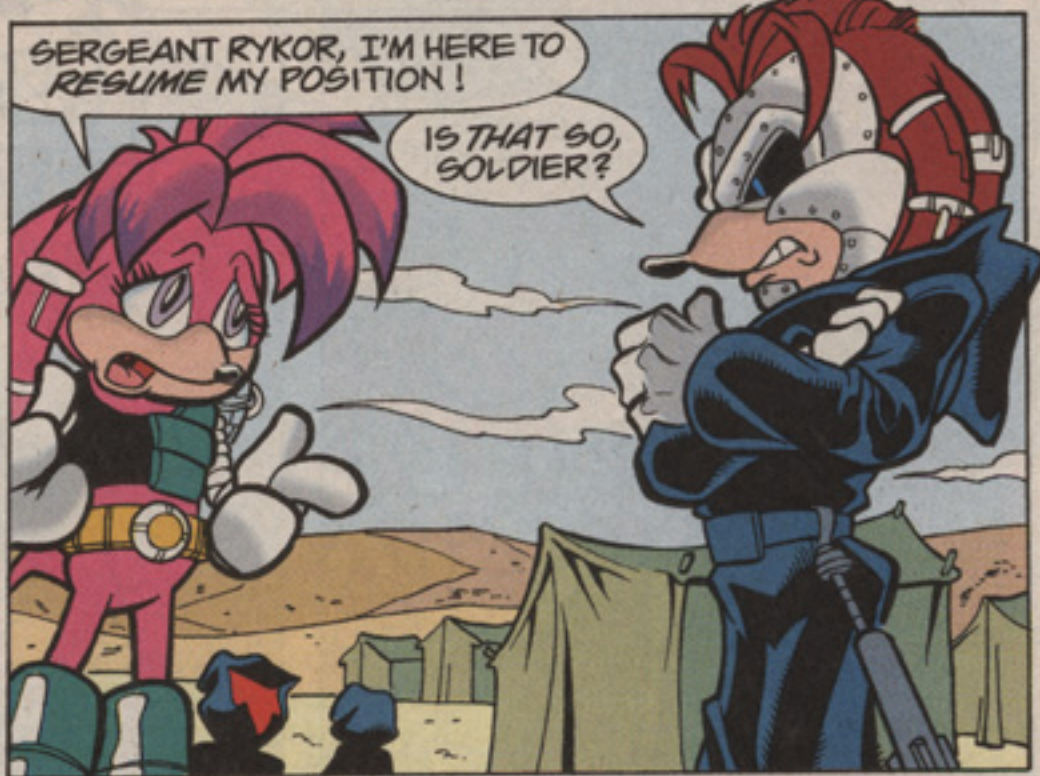
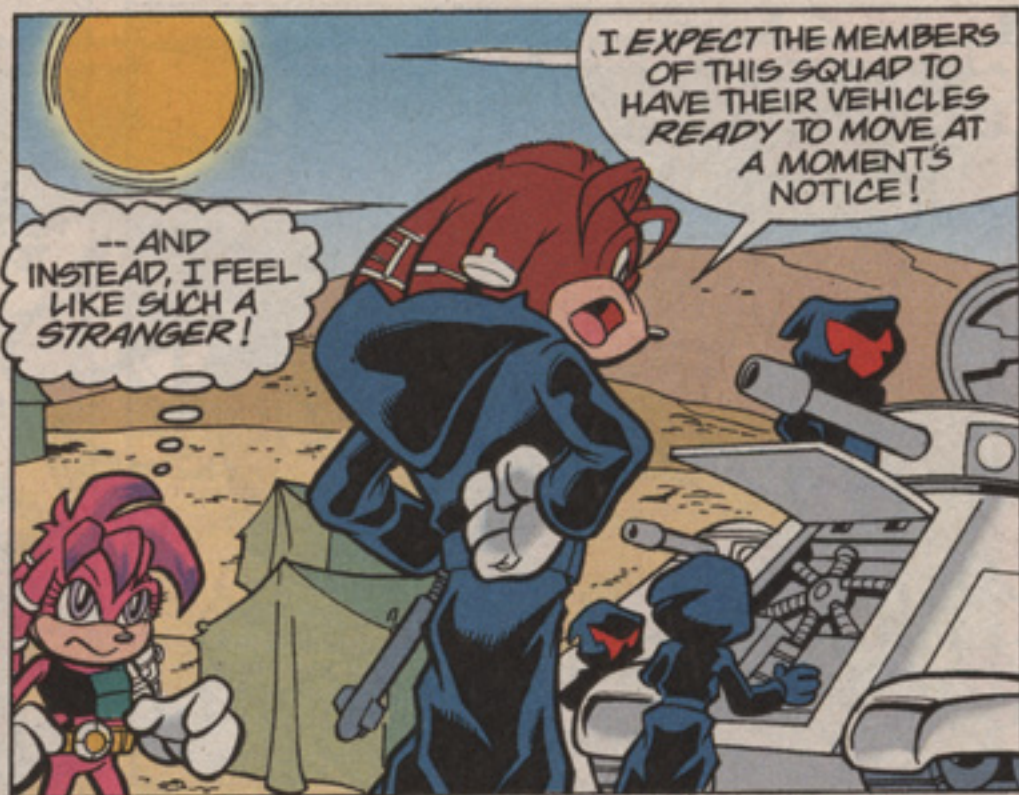
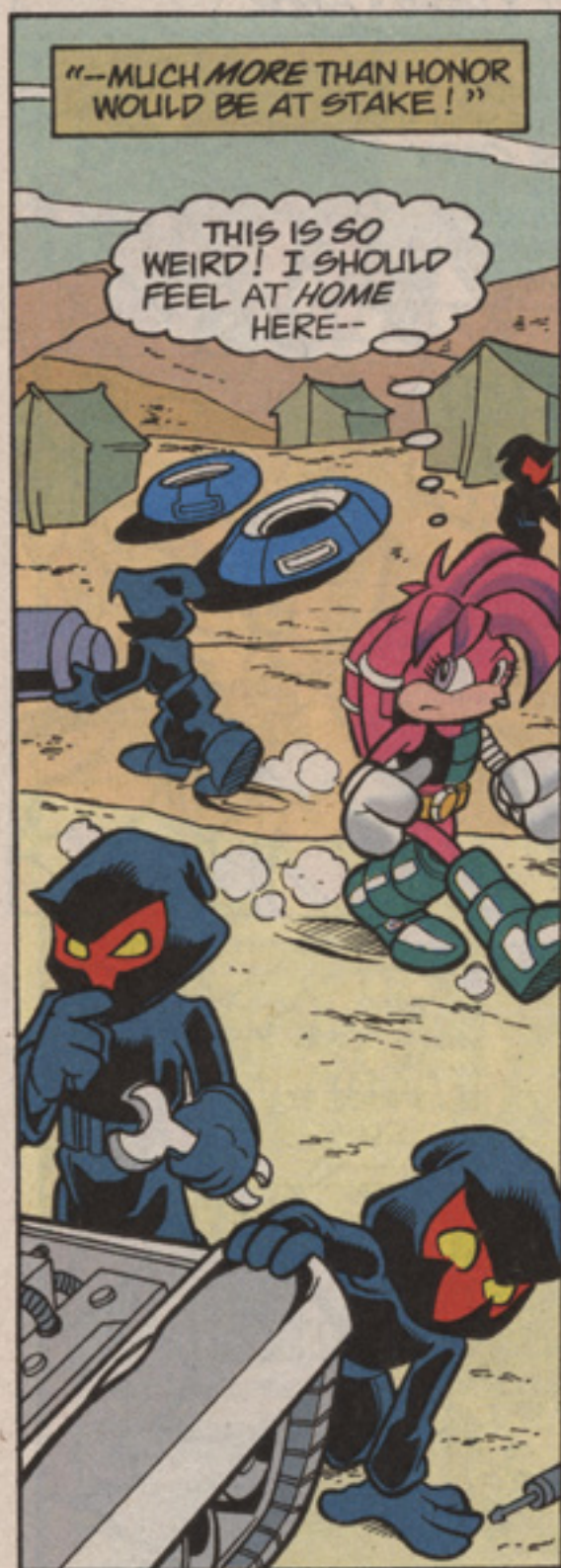
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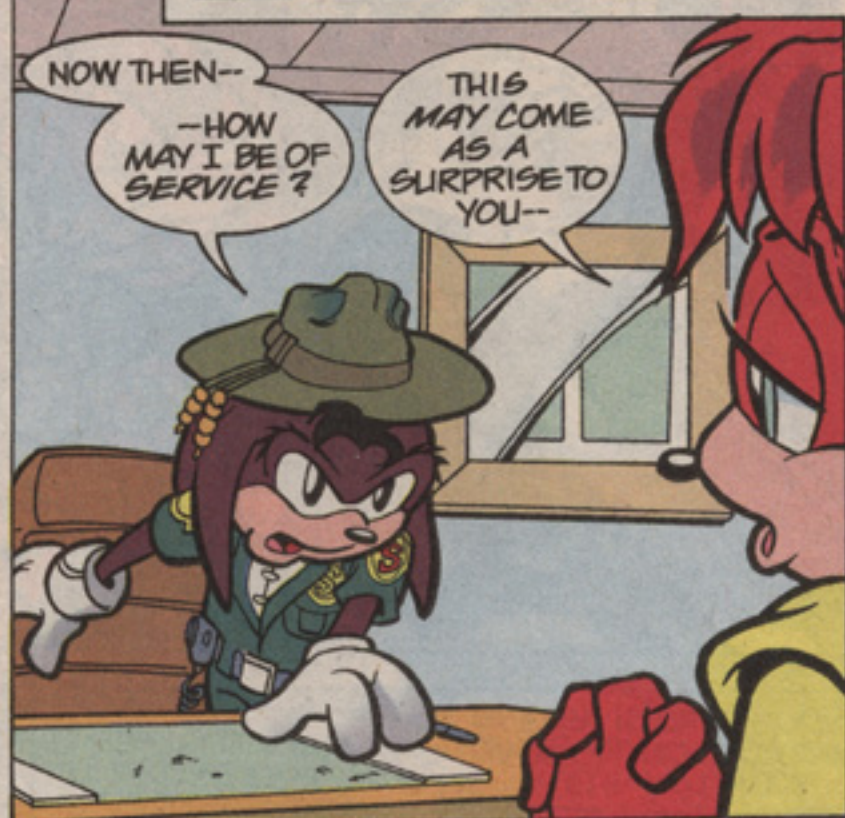
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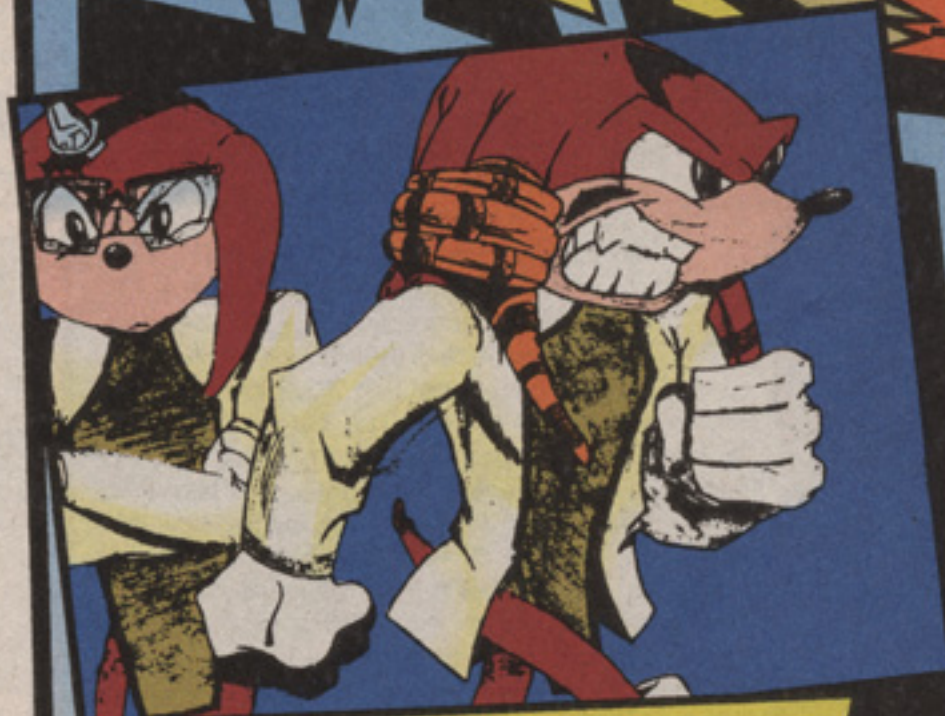






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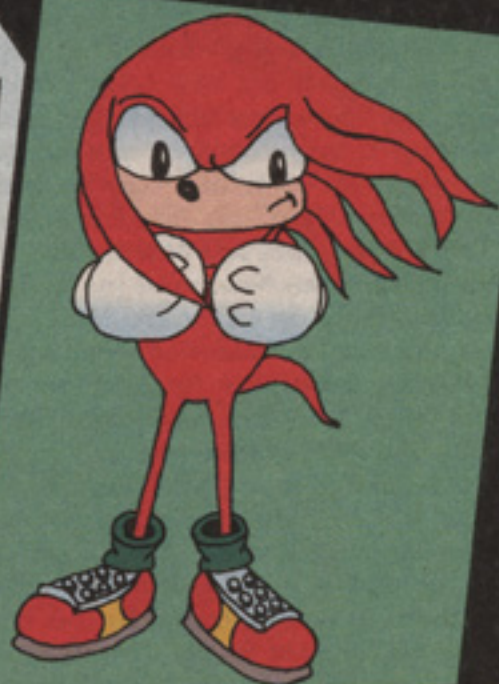
KNUCKLES



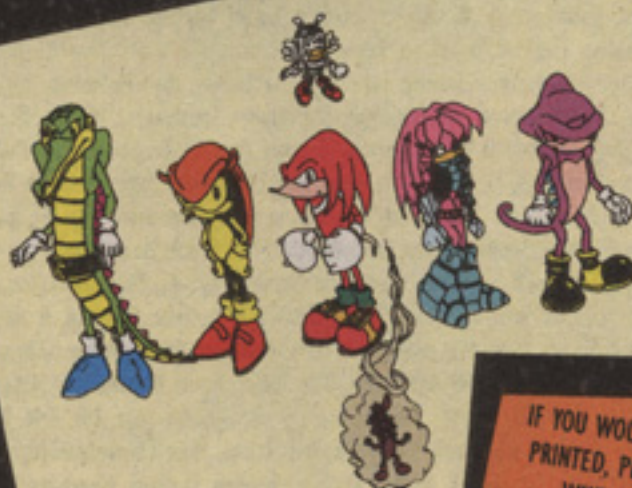
CHELSEY ATKINSON
GREAT BEND, KS



KRIS VAN
HUUSTEE
AGE 9

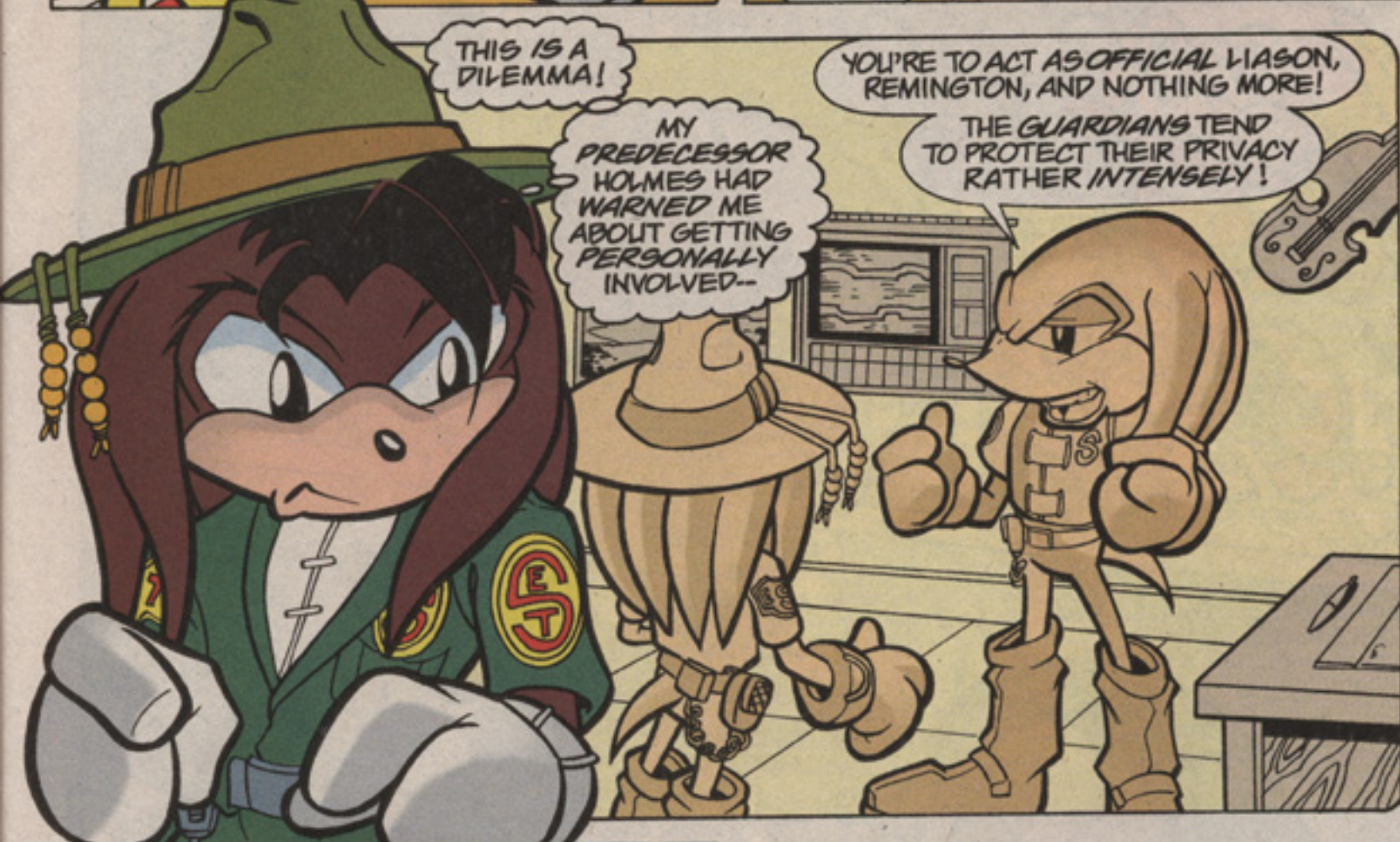
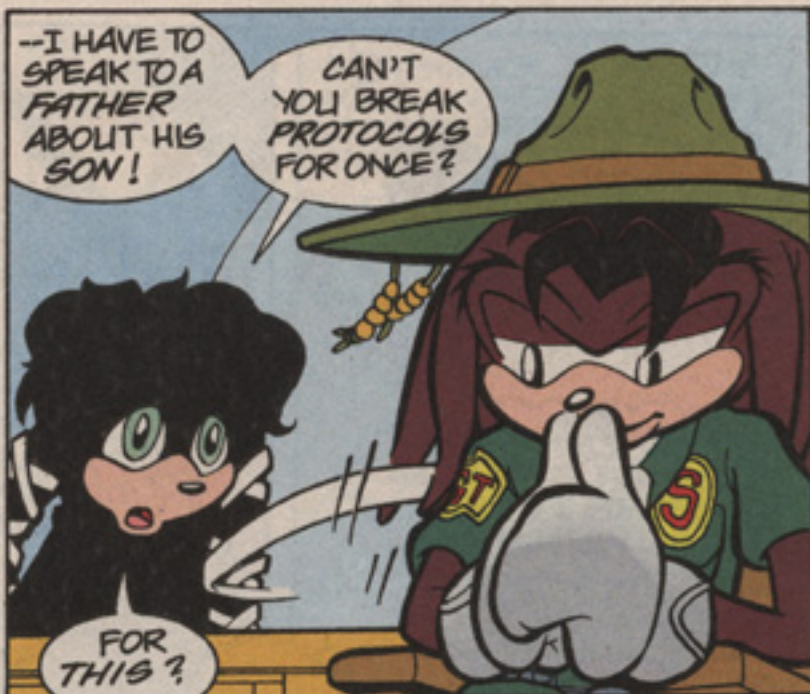


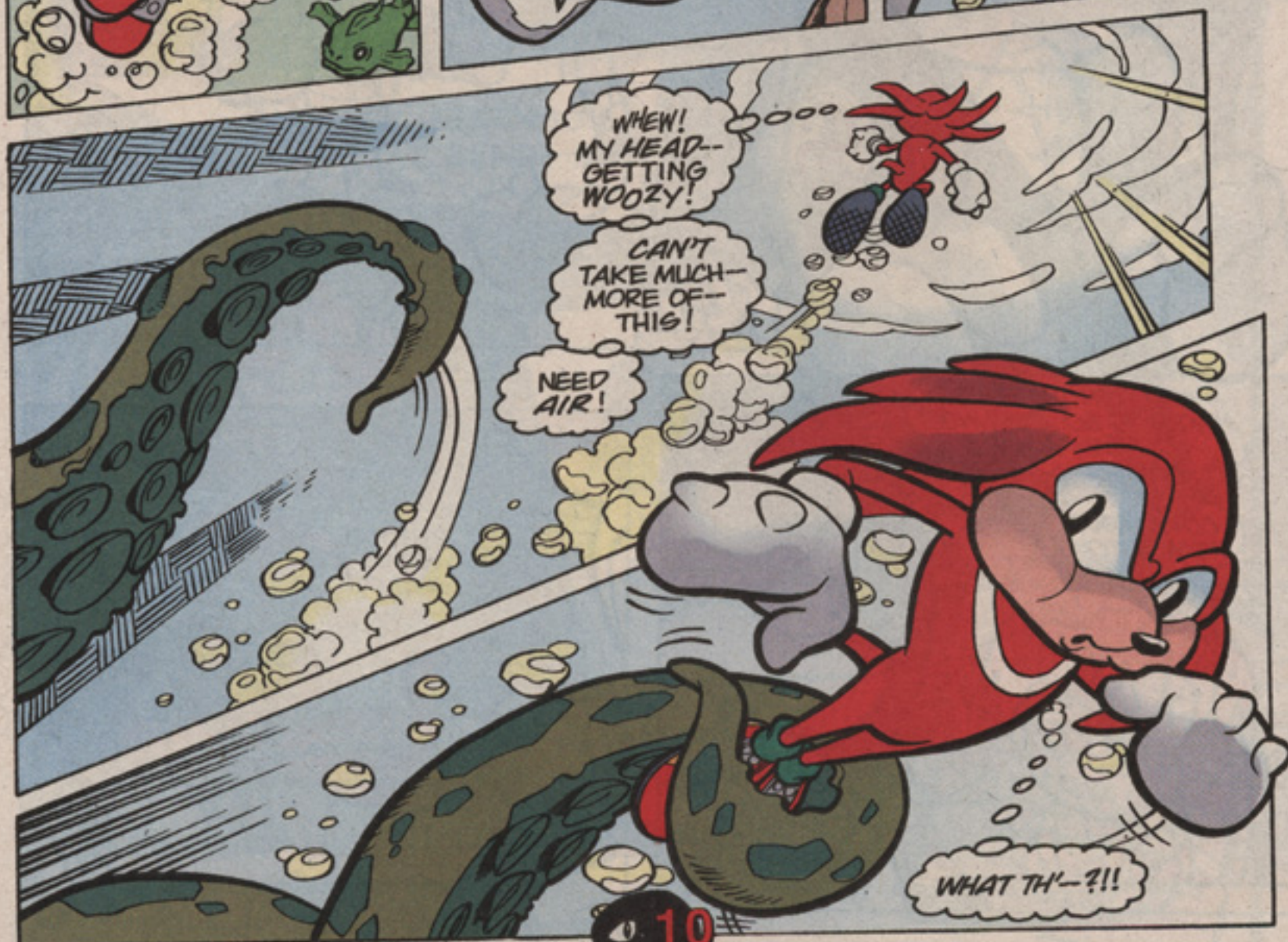
MINNA LUNNEY
AGE 15



LIEN NGUYEN
AGE 15

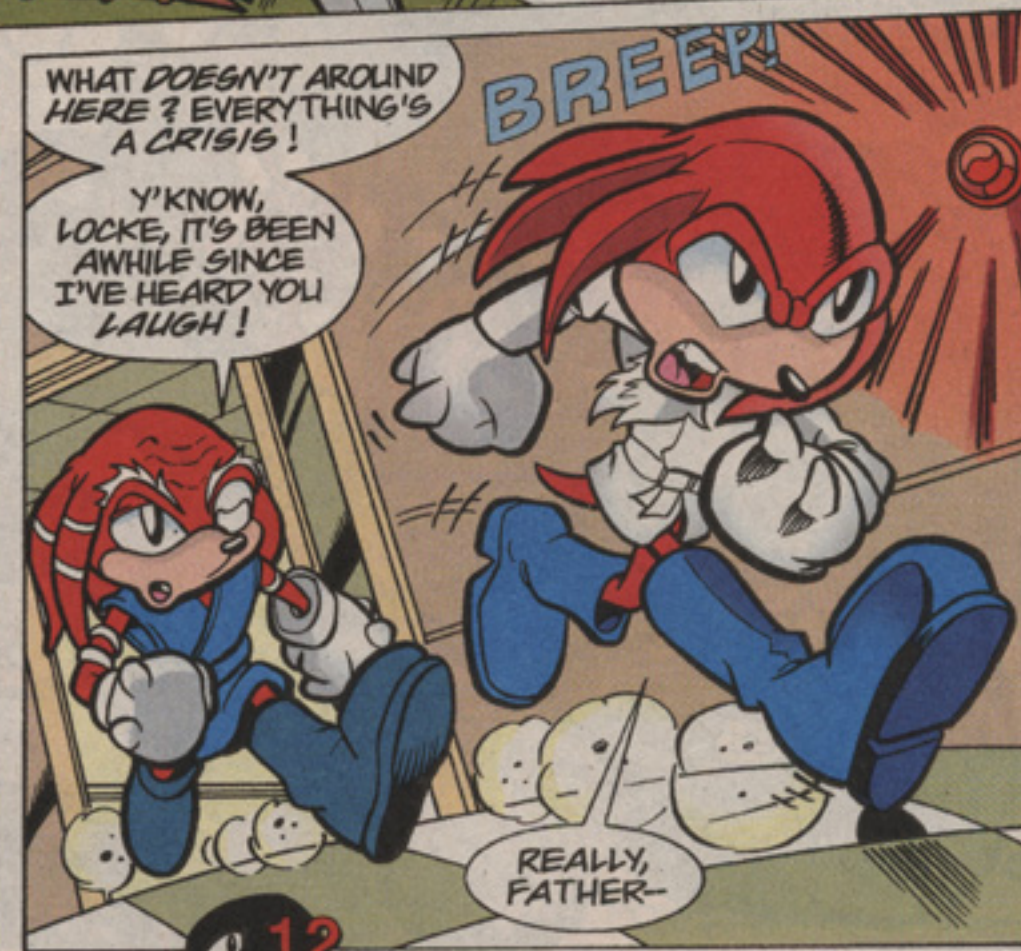
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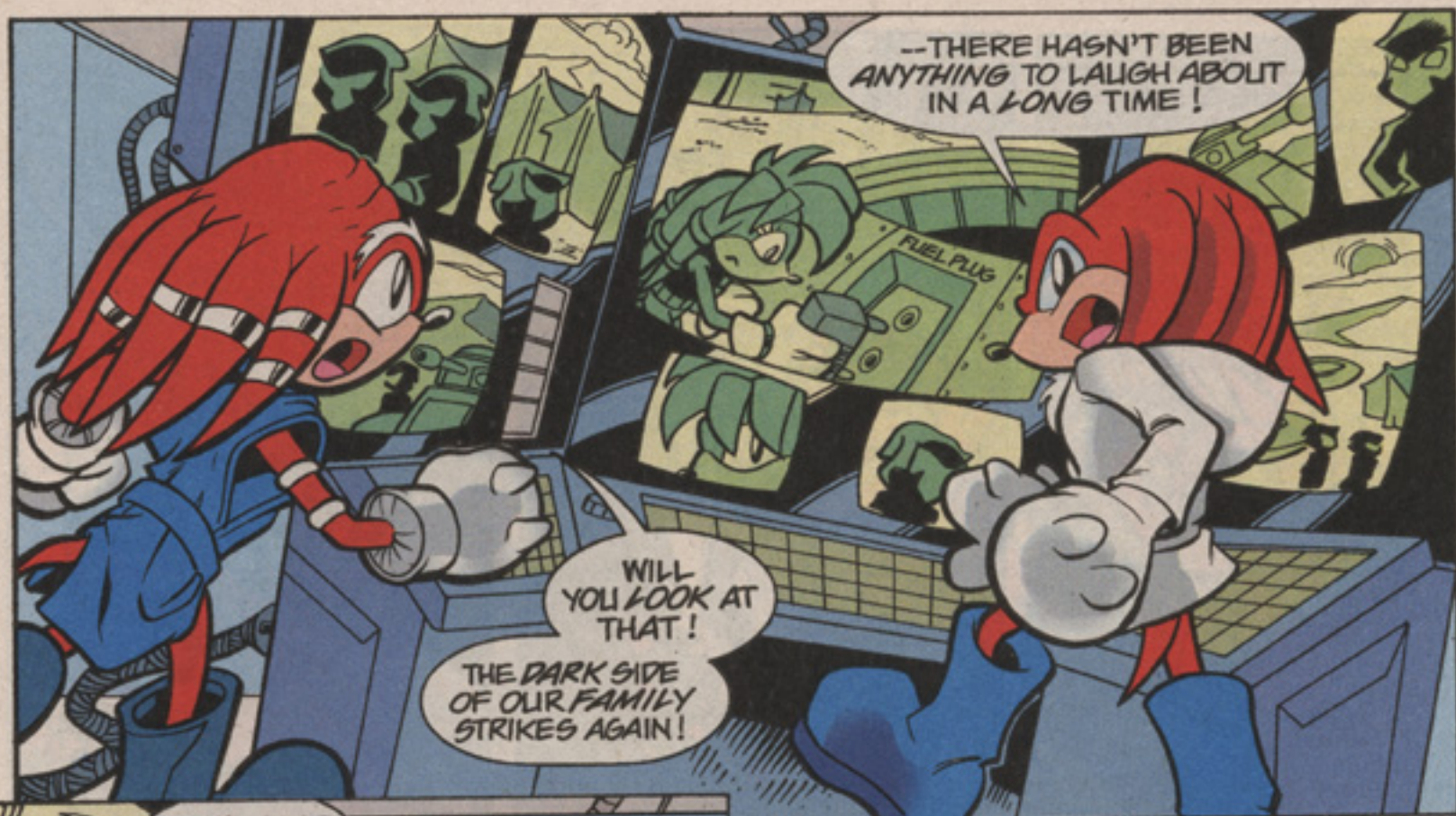






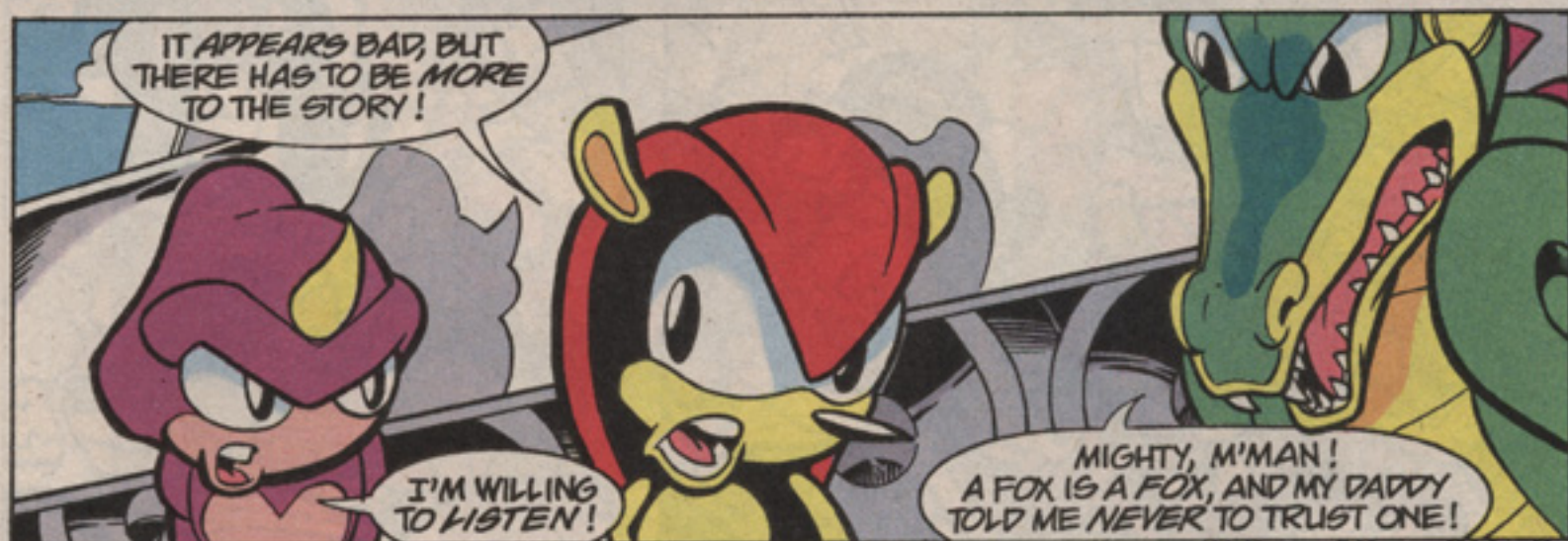
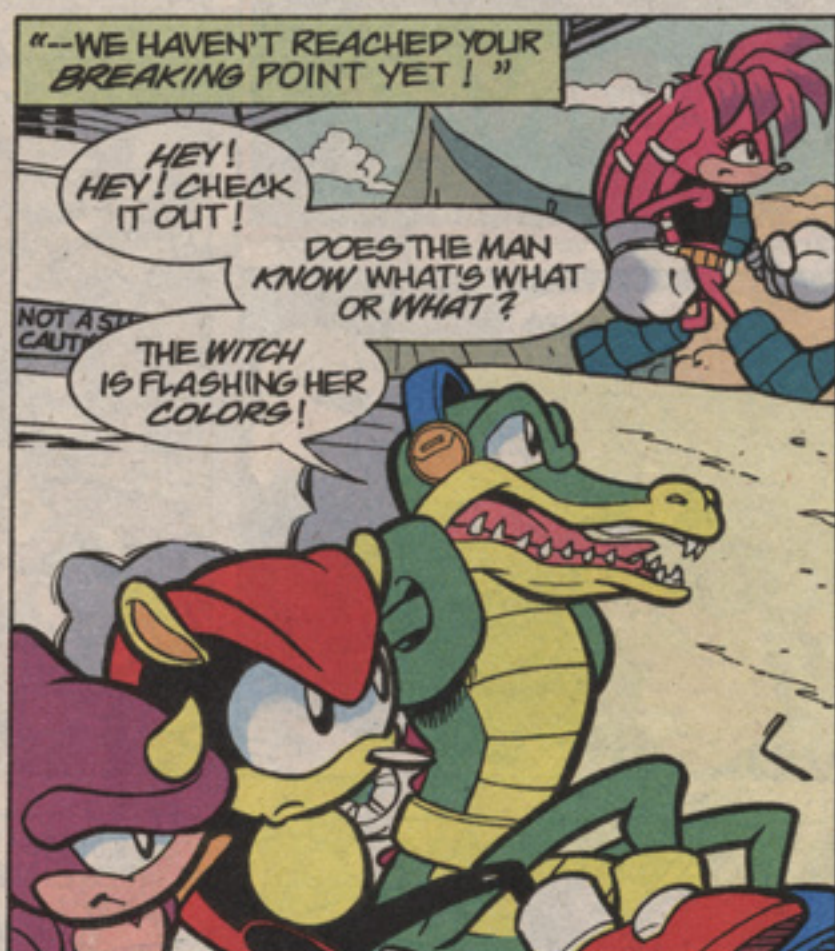
YEAH?



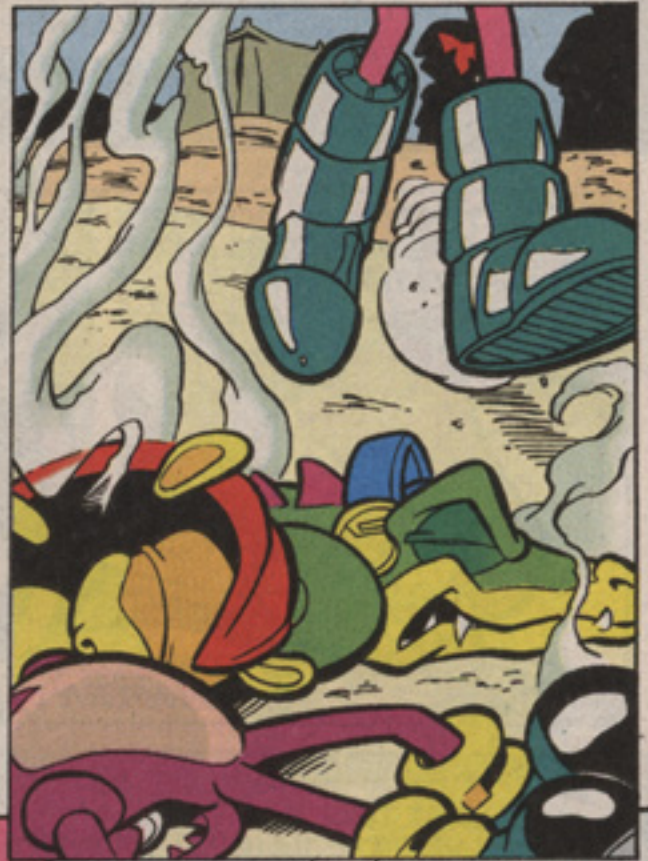
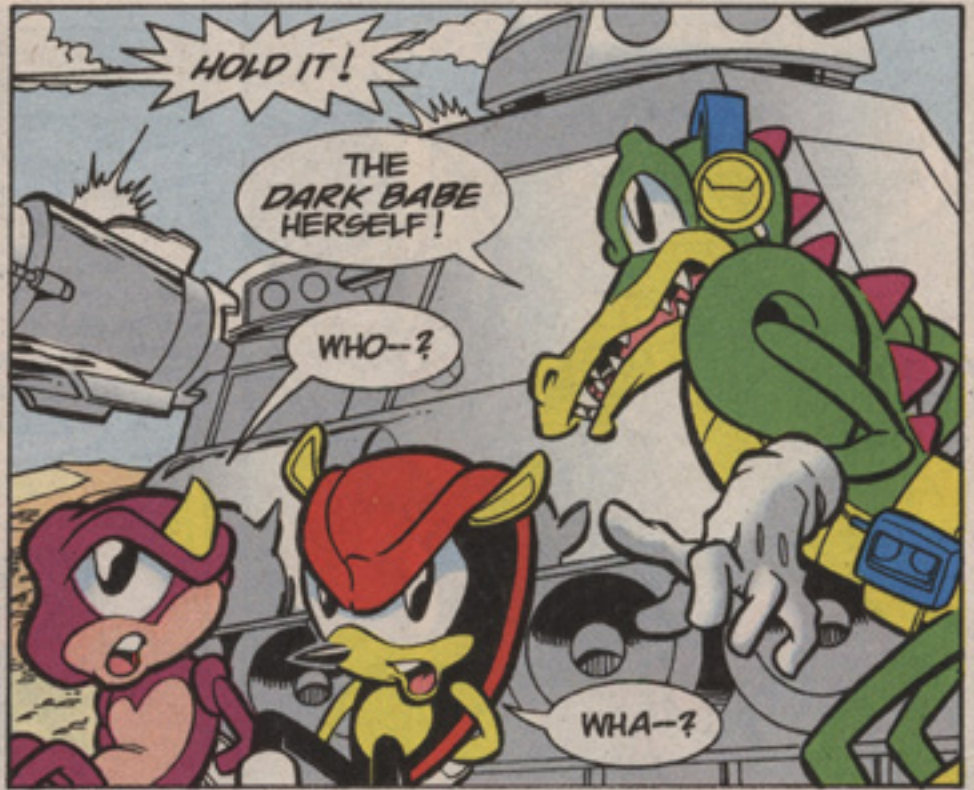
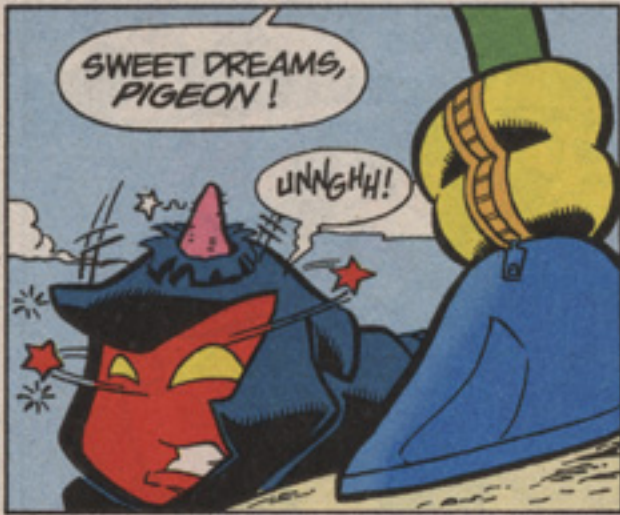


"--I DO BELIEVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THAT EXTREME MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR!"





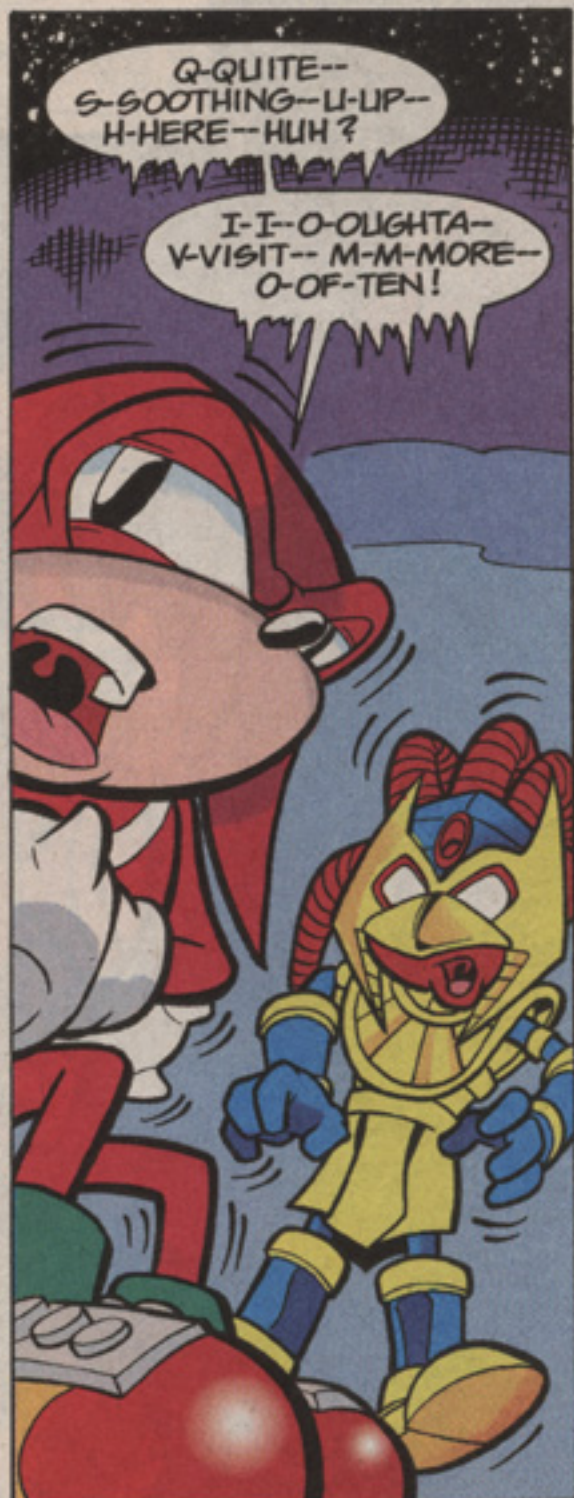
BONK!

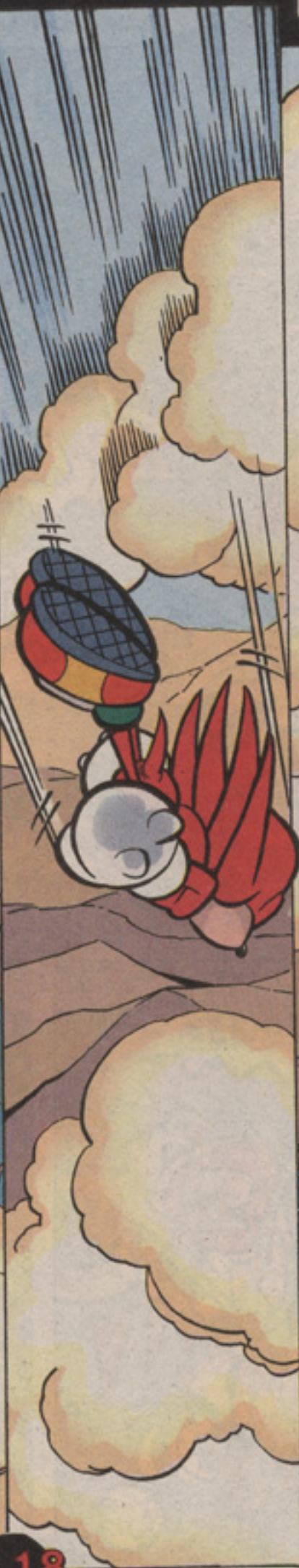




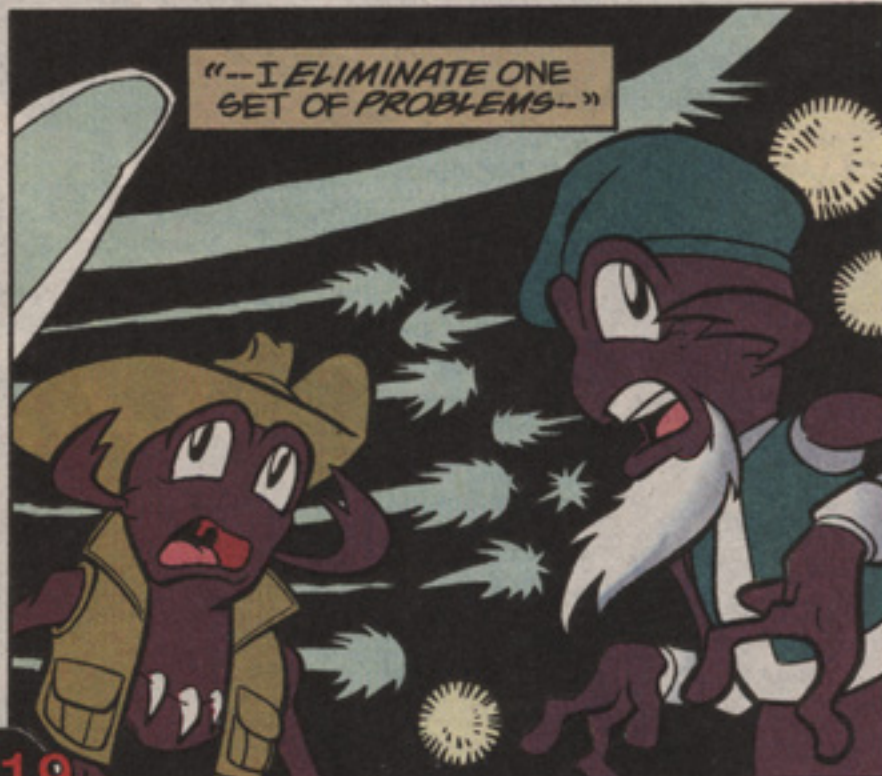
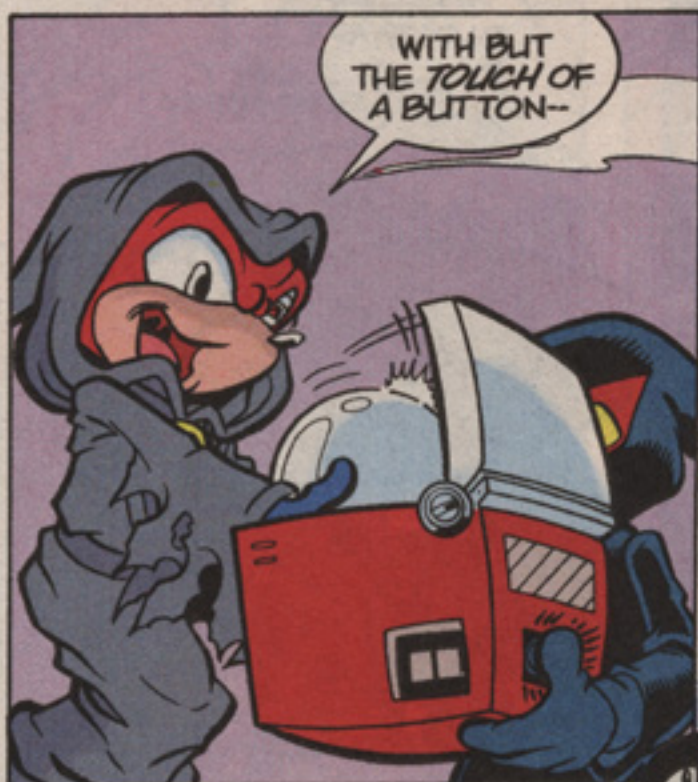
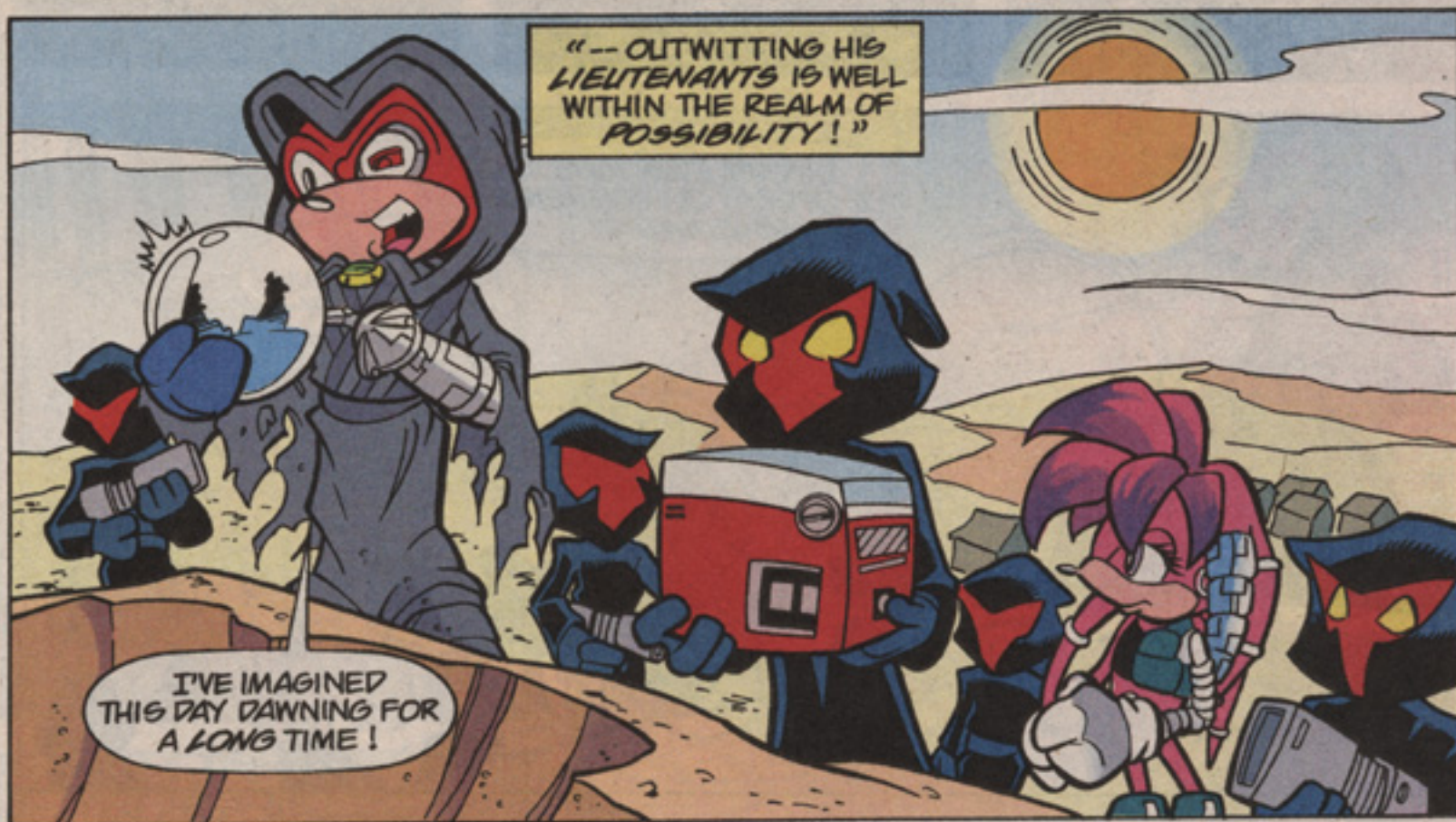
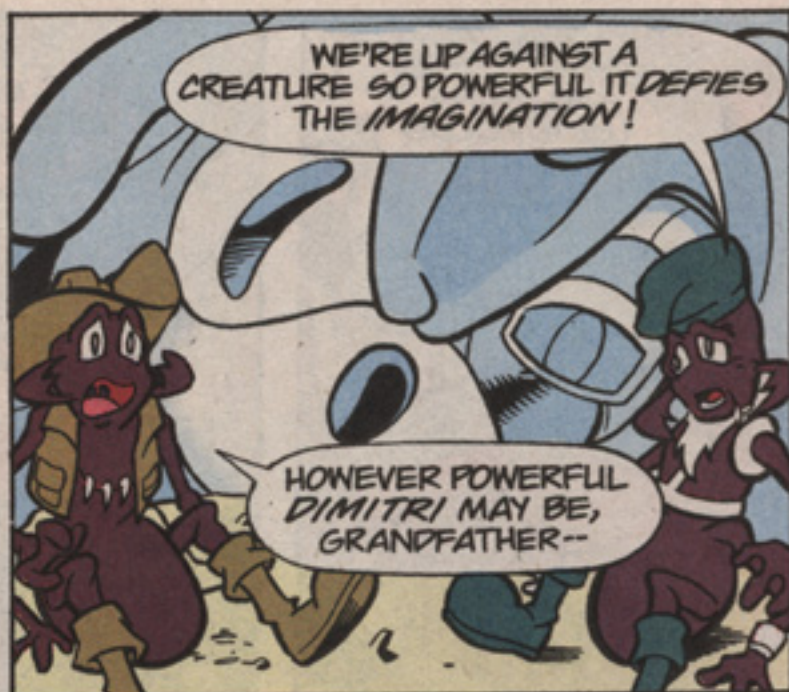
LET'S SEE HOW WELL
YOUR BRAVADO DOES
YOU HERE!

WE'RE AT LEAST
30,000 METERS ABOVE
THE SURFACE OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND!





" I REFUSE TO
ACCEPT THE
POSSIBILITY OF
THEY'RE NOT BEING
ANY WAY OUT
OF THIS-- "





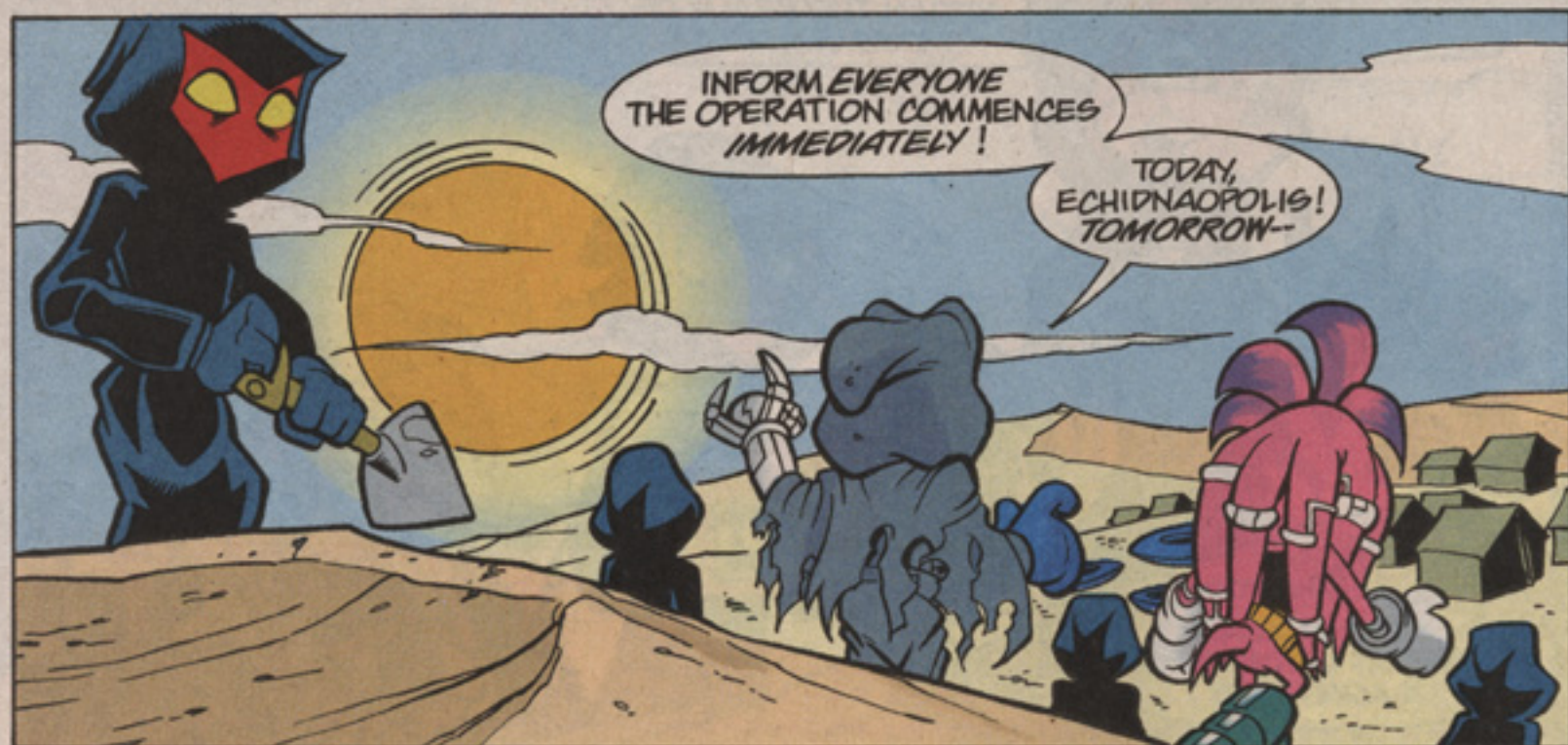
--ALLOWING
US TO FOCUS
ATTENTION--



--ON
RECLAIMING
THAT--



--WHICH
SHOULD BE
OURS!



INFORM EVERYONE
THE OPERATION COMMENCES
IMMEDIATELY!

TODAY,
ECHIDNAOPOLIS!
TOMORROW--



"--THE WORLD!"

NO WAY TO
TELEPORT!

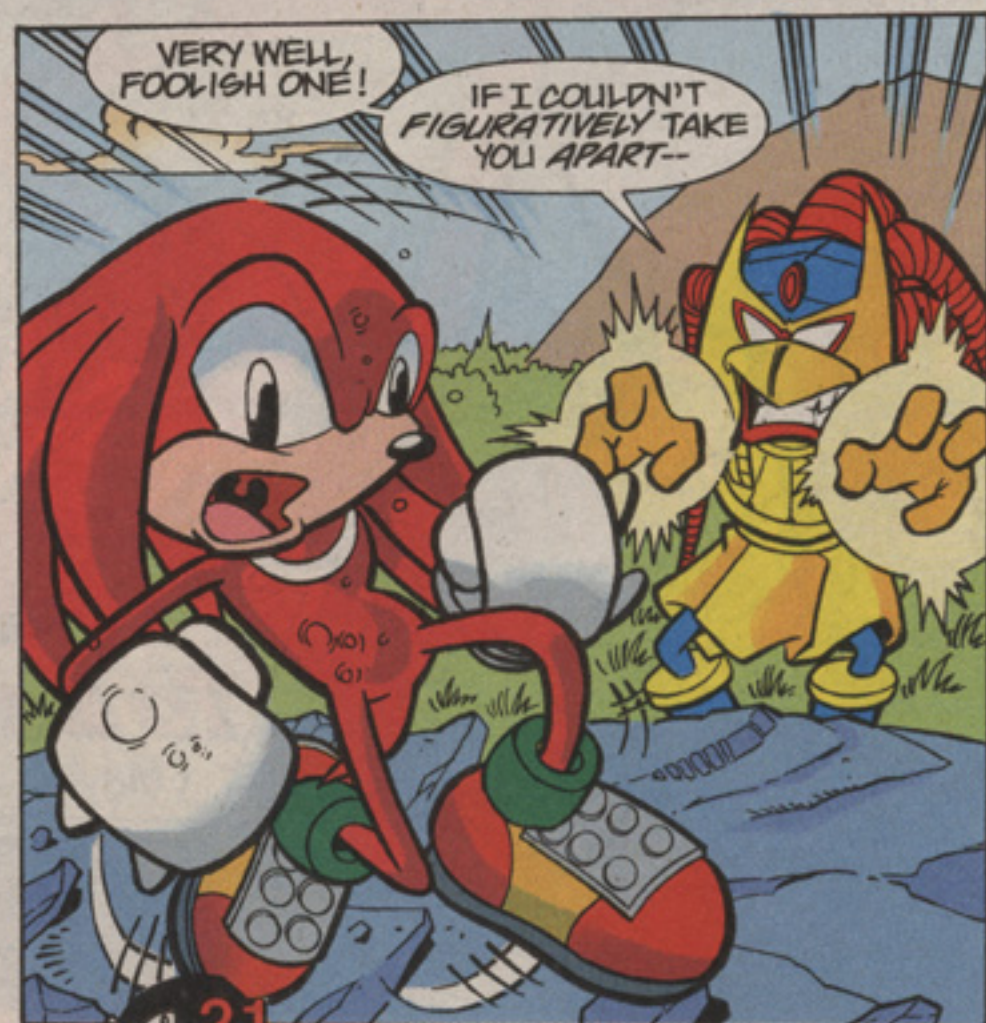
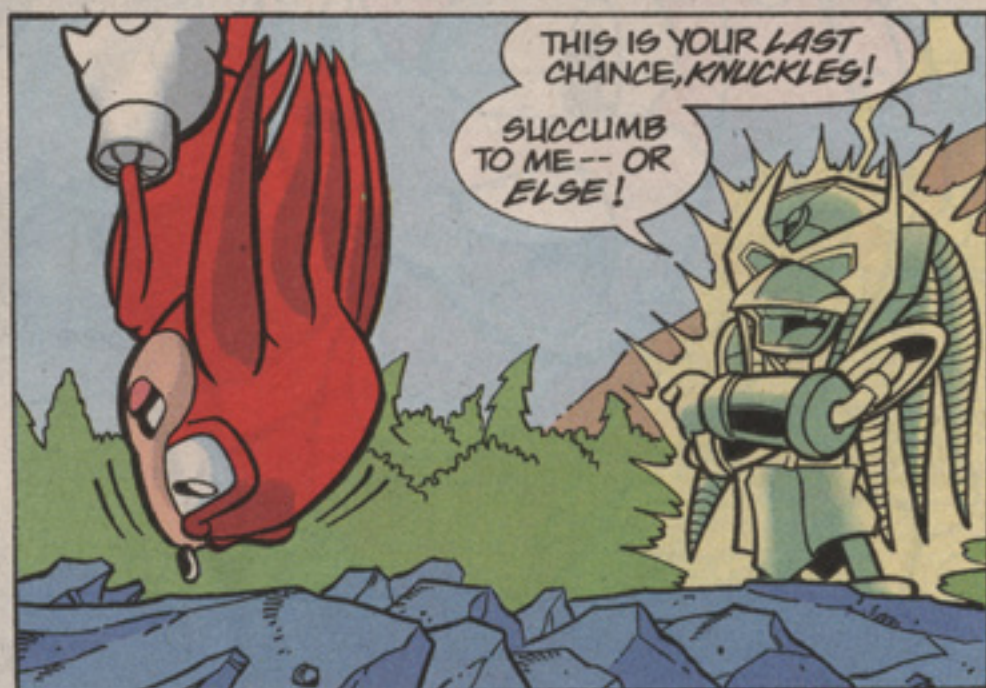
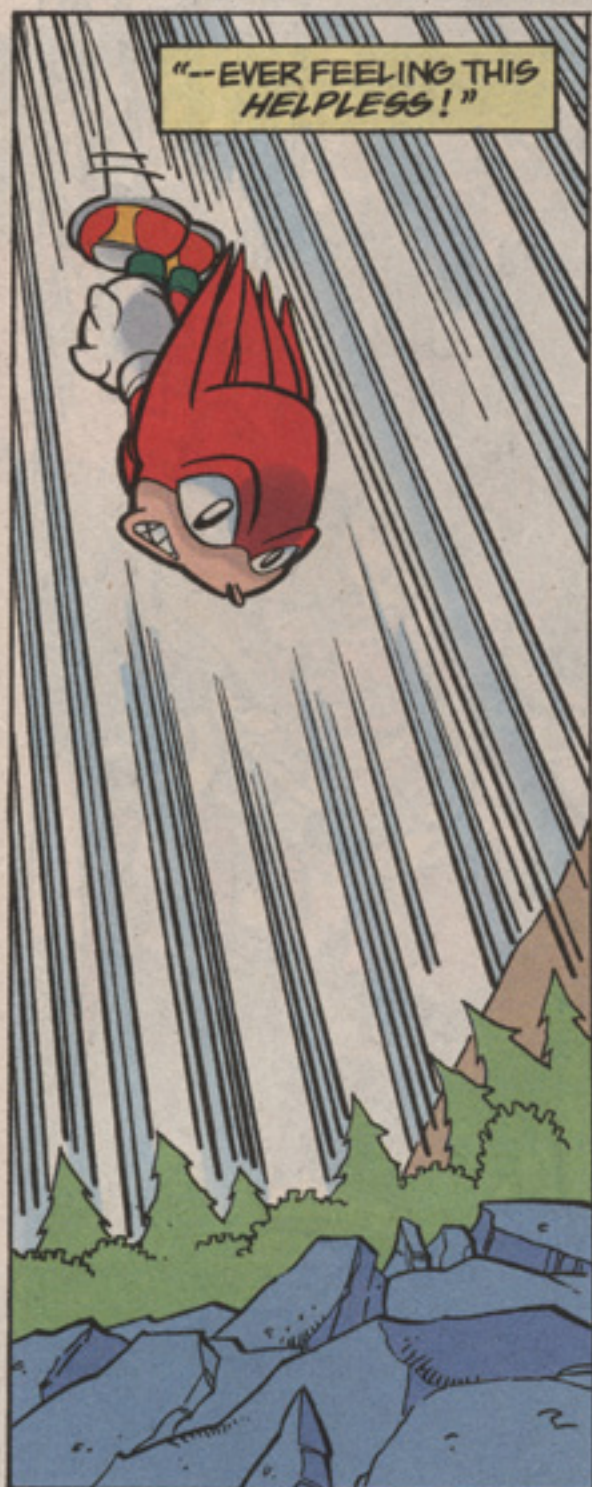
THE ELECTROMAGNET
FIELD IS EVEN STRONGER
IN HERE!

EASY, LAD!
WE'VE BEEN IN
TOUGH SPOTS
BEFORE!



TOUGHER
THAN THIS?

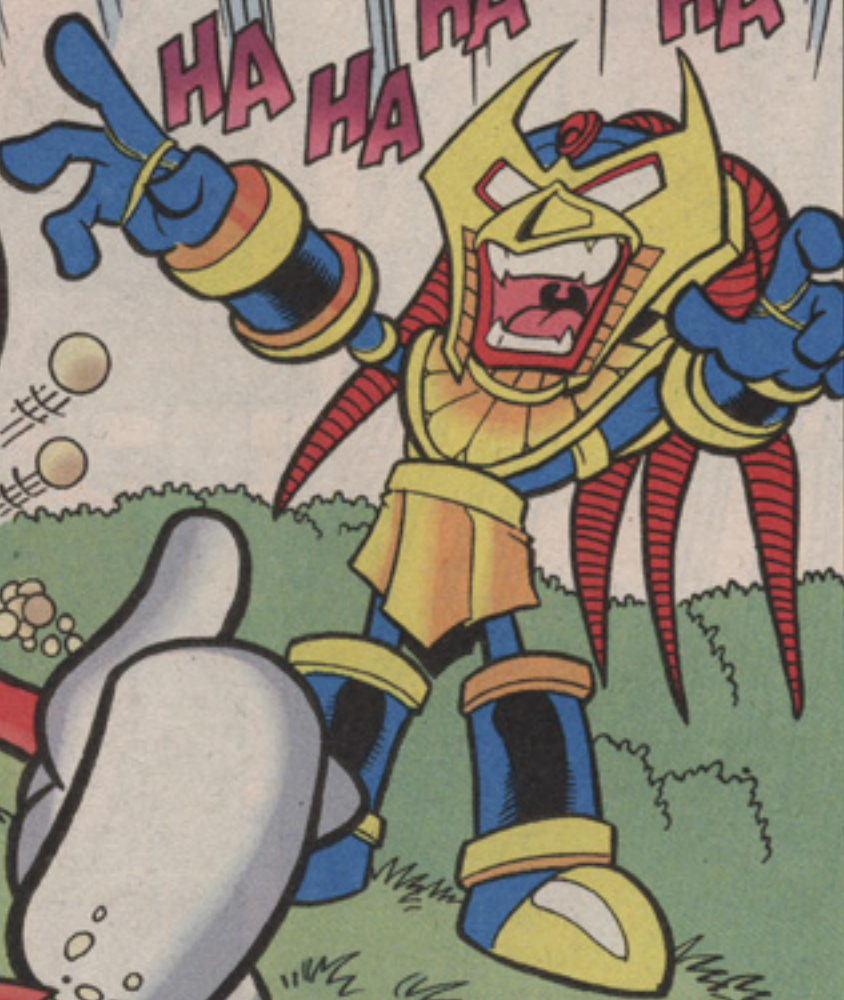
I CAN'T
REMEMBER--



--TAKING YOU APART
LITERALLY WILL DO JUST
AS WELL.

ENJOY
LIFE AS A
NEURON!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



To be continued...
(Maybe... possibly... we hope ?)

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

In two weeks: Who says things are quiet now that there is peace on Mobius? **The Freedom Fighters** are at it again. This time against a new threat in the form of **Eggbots**. Controlling them from behind bars is none other than **Snively**. He is on the attack as he makes his first move toward seeking power. And that power shows up in the form of **Monkey Khan**, a cyborg monkey created by **Robotnik** years ago. Is he friend or foe? Only this story knows for sure. Writer/Penciler Frank Strom chronicles this tale with inks by Ken Penders. Also in this issue: What is wrong with **King Acorn**? He's ordering the dismantling of ALL roboticized Mobians, including **Uncle Chuck**! **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #55** on sale December 1997!

In three weeks: It's the premiere of **Nights Into Dreams #1** (based on the game by Sega Saturn). When was the last time **you** felt in control of **your dreams**? Well, **Elliot and Claris** might have the answer. Join them as they help **Nights** stop **Wizeman The Wicked** from making reality into his own realm of nightmares. This rock'em-sock'em three-issue mini-series is brought to you by writer **Dan Slott**, who brought you 'Ren & Stimpy, the comic book' and 'TMNT: The Year of the Turtle mini-series.' He is joined by penciling sensations **Patrick "Spaz" Spaziente** and **Manny Galan**. Inking by the man they call **Harvo**. Look out for those computer-rendered covers by the **Spaz/Harvo/Heroic Age** team. Find the coupon in this issue and order this new mini-series today! **NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #1** on sale December 1997!

And next month: The conclusion to this three-part epic. **Everybody is in it. Need we say more?** **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #9** on sale December 1997!

Catch you on the flip side!

FREDDY

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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #55
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997



NIGHTS
INTO DREAMS #1
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997



KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #9
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997

Dear Knuckles-Grams,

Before I begin, I'd like to give a big great thanks to the powers that be at Archie Comics and the Sonic editors. There, now that the mushy stuff is over with, let's get on to my comments on Knuckles: The Dark Legion #2.

To my surprise, Knuckles TDL is turning out to be even better than the first Knuckles mini-series! I speak the honest-to-Snively truth when I say that this was the best Knuckles story I've ever read thus far. Much kudos to Manny Galan! From some of the video game references he's slipped into his art, I believe he's a fellow video game fan like Spaz! The Galan+Pepoy team makes the absolute best art available in Sonic comics outside of the Spaz+Harvo team.

I find it interesting how Knuckles is supposedly the "Guardian of the Floating Island," yet the guardians are apparently supposed to run operations from this place called "Haven." Knuckles' father is watching him from Haven, which leads me to believe that Knuckles is actually still under training for guardian. That means Knuckles' father is actually still the real guardian! Hmmm.... anyhow, thanks for reading my letter, and don't ever stop making Sonic comics! (And start making another Knuckles series, my army of insane Knuckles fans are getting a little— heh, heh—restless!) Heh,heh,heh...

Sonic-cerely,
Green Gibbon
Church Point, LA

Thanks for the rave review, Gibbon. All we can say is if you keep reading them, we'll keep making them.

Dear Knuckles,

I'm your biggest, biggest, BIGGEST fan. I have both of your Sega games. I beat the "Sonic and Knuckles" game as Hyper Knuckles every time. I have all the Sonic Specials that you appeared in. I also have your first mini-series. It was great! The Dark Legion mini-series is even better! I just got #2 and it just keeps getting better and better. I hope that you get your own regular series soon. You're my favorite Freedom Fighter and I know you're way past cooler than Sonic. You can tell him that if you want.

Your #1 Rad Red Fan,
Carletta "The Knucaholic" Davis (age 15)
Montgomery, AL

Well, I don't know anybody cooler than the Blue Blur but thanks for thinking I'm it. As you well know by now, I did get my own series and I couldn't have done it without the support of my fans.

Dear Knuckles,

I heard you're getting your own comic series and I just wanted to be first to congratulate you! I have some questions to ask you: 1) What happened to your mom? 2) How old were you when your dad went into the Forbidden Zone? 3) Would you ever join the Freedom Fighters? Well that's about it, catch you on the flip side.

Shane Crider
Yakima, WA.

Thanks for the congrats, Shane. I am "mighty" proud (no pun intended). Now on to your questions: 1) As you saw in issue #4, my mom is just fine and is back in my life. 2) I was about nine years old. 3) Join The Freedom Fighters? I've got my own problems and responsibilities being the 'Guardian of The Floating Island' that there's not enough time for me to do both. But I do help from time to time whenever I can.

Dear Knux,

Why don't they give you a comic cover without Sonic on the front? I have some questions. 1) Who are Heavy and Bomb? 2) How many guardians has there been before you? 3) Is there any other intelligent life on The Floating Island besides you, the Chaotix, Benjy the Kangaroo and his mom, and Catweazle? I have every comic of yours besides "Chaotix", and the last of the "Dark Legion" and Sonic & Knuckles "Battle Royal".

See Ya,
Trevor Elvey
McKinneyville, CA

1) Heavy and Bomb were two of Robotnik's weapons that defected to The Floating Island for some peace and quiet.

2) There have been sixteen guardians before me. 3) Yeah. There's a whole bunch of other species on the island. We will be able to see more of them in

future issues.



Dear Knuckles,

I LOVE YOU! Your appearances in the Sonic comics and your two mini-series were great. I love "Knuckles The Dark Legion" and am eagerly awaiting the release of "Knuckles The Echidna #4." I think you should have put in more of an appearance in "The Death-Egg Saga." I absolutely love what the artists at Archie have done with you. My favorite character to play in Sonic 3 is you.

What I'd really like to know is how can I get a copy of your debut in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #13?!!!!!! My lucky number is 13. I've searched and searched, but all I've found is issues #15 and #17. True, I didn't have them before, but I REALLY want issue #13. That will make my collection #1, #14-48 of the regular series, and all special issues (with exception of Sonic Ltd. #0-3).

Your Pal,
H. "Sketch" S.
NGSOLO@juno.com

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #3: SONIC FIRSTS has my first appearance from **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #13**. Get it while the getting is good. On sale now!

**So until
next
month,
stay cool!**



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